

What is claimed is:

1. An implantable cardiac rhythm management device, comprising:
    - 5 a sensing channel for sensing an electrogram signal representing cardiac electrical activity and circuitry for generating a chamber sense when the electrogram signal exceeds a specified threshold;
    - one or more stimulation channels for delivering electrical stimulation to a subject's heart;
  - 10 a controller programmed to detect a tachyarrhythmia from the rate at which chamber senses are generated and to cause delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy through one or more of the stimulation channels upon detection of a tachyarrhythmia;
  - 15 a telemetry interface by which the controller may communicate with an external device; and,
  - wherein the controller is programmed to disable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy for a specified time interval upon receipt of a temporary suspend command from the external device via the telemetry interface and to re-enable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy upon expiration of the specified time interval.
- 20
2. The device of claim 1 wherein the specified time interval for which the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy is disabled is communicated to the implantable device by the external device via the telemetry interface.
  - 25 3. The device of claim 1 wherein delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy is re-enabled before expiration of the specified time interval by receipt of a resume command from the external device via the telemetry interface.

4. The device of claim 1 further comprising a magnetic switch actuated by application of a magnetic field and wherein delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy is re-enabled before expiration of the specified time interval by actuation of the magnetic switch.

5

5. The device of claim 3 further comprising an activity sensor for measuring an activity level and wherein delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy is re-enabled before expiration of the specified time interval upon measurement of an activity level above a specified threshold value.

10

6. The device of claim 1 wherein the controller is further programmed to disable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy indefinitely upon receipt of an indefinite suspend command from the external device via the telemetry interface and to re-enable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy upon receipt of a resume command.

15

7. The device of claim 6 further comprising a magnetic switch actuated by application of a magnetic field and wherein the resume command is communicated to the implantable device by actuation of the magnetic switch.

20

8. The device of claim 6 further comprising an activity sensor for measuring an activity level and wherein the resume command is generated upon measurement of an activity level above a specified threshold value.

25

9. The device of claim 1 further comprising an activity sensor for measuring an activity level and wherein the controller is further programmed to disable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy indefinitely upon receipt of an indefinite suspend with activity re-enable command from the external device and to re-enable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy upon measurement of an activity level above a specified threshold value.

10. The device of claim 1 further comprising a magnetic switch actuated by application of a magnetic field and wherein the controller is further programmed to disable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy indefinitely upon receipt of an indefinite suspend with magnetic re-enable command from the external device and to  
5 re-enable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy upon actuation of the magnetic switch.
11. The device of claim 1 wherein the one or more stimulation channels include a pacing channel for delivering anti-tachycardia pacing and wherein the controller is  
10 programmed to cause delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy in the form of anti-tachycardia pacing upon detection of a tachyarrhythmia.
12. The device of claim 1 wherein the one or more stimulation channels include a shock channel for delivering cardioversion/defibrillation shocks and wherein the  
15 controller is programmed to cause delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy in the form of a cardioversion/defibrillation shock upon detection of a tachyarrhythmia.
13. The device of claim 1 wherein the one or more stimulation channels include a  
20 pacing channel for delivering anti-tachycardia pacing and a shock channel for delivering cardioversion/defibrillation shocks, and wherein the controller is programmed to cause delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy in the form of anti-tachycardia pacing upon detection of a tachyarrhythmia in a tachycardia zone and in the form of a cardioversion/defibrillation shock upon detection of a tachyarrhythmia in a fibrillation zone.  
25
14. The device of claim 1 wherein the controller is programmed to disable anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy by disabling one or more sensing channels.

15. The device of claim 1 wherein the one or more stimulation channels include a pacing channel for delivering bradycardia pacing in an inhibited demand mode and further wherein the controller is programmed to disable anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy by disabling one or more sensing channels which thereby also causes the device to 5 revert to an asynchronous pacing mode.
16. An implantable cardiac rhythm management device, comprising:  
10 a sensing channel for sensing an electrogram signal representing cardiac electrical activity and circuitry for generating a chamber sense when the electrogram signal exceeds a specified threshold;  
one or more stimulation channels for delivering electrical stimulation to a subject's heart;  
15 a controller programmed to detect a tachyarrhythmia from the rate at which chamber senses are generated and to cause delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy through one or more of the stimulation channels upon detection of a tachyarrhythmia;  
a magnetic switch interfaced to the controller which is actuated by application of a magnetic field;  
a telemetry interface by which the controller may communicate with an external device; and,  
20 wherein the controller is programmed to disable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy indefinitely upon receipt of an indefinite suspend with magnetic re-enable command from the external device and to re-enable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy upon actuation of the magnetic switch.
- 25 17. The device of claim 16 wherein the one or more stimulation channels include a pacing channel for delivering bradycardia pacing in an inhibited demand mode and further wherein the controller is programmed to disable anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy by disabling the sensing channel which thereby also causes the device to revert to an asynchronous pacing mode.

18. An implantable cardiac rhythm management device, comprising:
  - a sensing channel for sensing an electrogram signal representing cardiac electrical activity and circuitry for generating a chamber sense when the electrogram signal exceeds a specified threshold;
  - 5 one or more stimulation channels for delivering electrical stimulation to a subject's heart;
  - a controller programmed to detect a tachyarrhythmia from the rate at which chamber senses are generated and to cause delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy through one or more of the stimulation channels upon detection of a tachyarrhythmia;
  - 10 an activity sensor interfaced to the controller for measuring an activity level;
  - a telemetry interface by which the controller may communicate with an external device; and,
  - wherein the controller is programmed to disable the delivery of the anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy indefinitely upon receipt of an indefinite suspend with activity
  - 15 re-enable command from the external device and to re-enable the delivery of anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy upon measurement of an activity level above a specified threshold value.
19. The device of claim 18 wherein the one or more stimulation channels include a  
20 pacing channel for delivering bradycardia pacing in an inhibited demand mode and further wherein the controller is programmed to disable anti-tachyarrhythmia therapy by disabling the sensing channel which thereby also causes the device to revert to an asynchronous pacing mode.